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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus which reads a color image on an original and subjects the read image data to image processing, thus forming a color image, the apparatus comprising:
  - a storage section which prestores a first filter coefficient set and a second filter coefficient set;
  - a setting section which presets a sharpness adjustment code value in the image processing;
  - 10 a mode select section which selects an original mode;
  - an instruction section which instructs start of an image forming operation in the image forming apparatus;
  - a reading section which reads the color image on  
15 the original when the instruction section has issued a start instruction;
  - an area discrimination section which discriminates an area of each of pixels of interest in the color image data read by the reading section;
  - 20 a calculation section which calculates, when the instruction section has issued the start instruction, filter coefficient values associated with areas discriminated by the area discrimination section, on the basis of the first filter coefficient set and  
25 second filter coefficient set stored in the storage section, the sharpness adjustment code value set by the setting section, and the original mode selected by the

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select section;

a temporary storage section which temporarily stores the plural filter coefficient values calculated by the calculation section;

5 a selection section which selects one of the plural filter coefficient values temporarily stored in the temporary storage section, on the basis of an area discrimination result of the area discrimination section; and

10 a process section which performs a filtering process for the image data, using the filter coefficient value selected by the selection section.

2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first filter coefficient set  
15 stored in the storage section is a base filter coefficient set, and the second filter coefficient set is a difference filter coefficient set.

3. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the setting section is preset by a  
20 serviceman of the image forming apparatus.

4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sharpness adjustment code value set by the setting section is commonly used for the  
25 respective areas discriminated by the area discrimination section.

5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sharpness adjustment code value

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set by the setting section is set specifically for each of respective original modes, which is selected by the mode select section.

5       6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sharpness adjustment code value set by the setting section is set specifically for each of respective original modes, which is selected by the mode select section, and is commonly used for the respective areas discriminated by the area  
10       discrimination section.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the calculation section calculates the filter coefficient values corresponding to the areas discriminated by the area discrimination  
15       section, a predetermined ratio is preset among the coefficients corresponding to the areas discriminated by the area discrimination section.

8. An image forming apparatus which reads a color image on an original and subjects the read image data to image processing, thus forming a color image, the  
20       apparatus comprising:

      a storage section which prestores a first filter coefficient set and a second filter coefficient set;

      a setting section which presets a sharpness  
25       adjustment code value in the image processing;

      an adjustment section which adjusts the sharpness adjustment code value set by the setting section;

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a mode select section which selects an original mode;

an instruction section which instructs start of an image forming operation in the image forming apparatus;

5 a reading section which reads the color image on the original when the instruction section has issued a start instruction;

a conversion section which converts the color image data read by the reading section to color  
10 signals;

an area discrimination section which discriminates an area of each of pixels of interest in the color image data read by the reading section;

a calculation section which calculates, when the  
15 instruction section has issued the start instruction, filter coefficient values associated with areas discriminated by the area discrimination section, on the basis of the first filter coefficient set and second filter coefficient set stored in the storage  
20 section, the sharpness adjustment code value set by the setting section, the value adjusted by the adjustment section and the original mode selected by the select section;

a temporary storage section which temporarily  
25 stores the plural filter coefficient values calculated by the calculation section;

a selection section which selects one of the

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plural filter coefficient values temporarily stored in the temporary storage section, on the basis of an area discrimination result of the area discrimination section; and

5           a process section which performs a filtering process for the color signals converted by the conversion section, using the filter coefficient value selected by the selection section.

9. An image forming apparatus according to  
10       claim 8, wherein when no adjustment has been effected by the adjustment section, the sharpness adjustment code value set by the setting section is used as a default for sharpness adjustment.

10. An image processing method which subjects  
15       supplied image data to image processing, comprising:  
          restoring a first filter coefficient set and a second filter coefficient set;

          presetting a sharpness adjustment code value in the image processing;

20       selecting an original mode;  
          discriminating an area of each of pixels of interest in the supplied image data;

          calculating filter coefficient values associated with the discriminated areas on the basis of the stored  
25       first filter coefficient set and second filter coefficient set corresponding to the selected original mode, and the set sharpness adjustment code value;

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temporarily storing the calculated filter  
coefficient values associated with the respective  
areas;

5       selecting one of the temporarily stored plural  
filter coefficient values in accordance with a result  
of the discrimination of the areas; and

performing a filtering process for the image data,  
using the selected filter coefficient value.